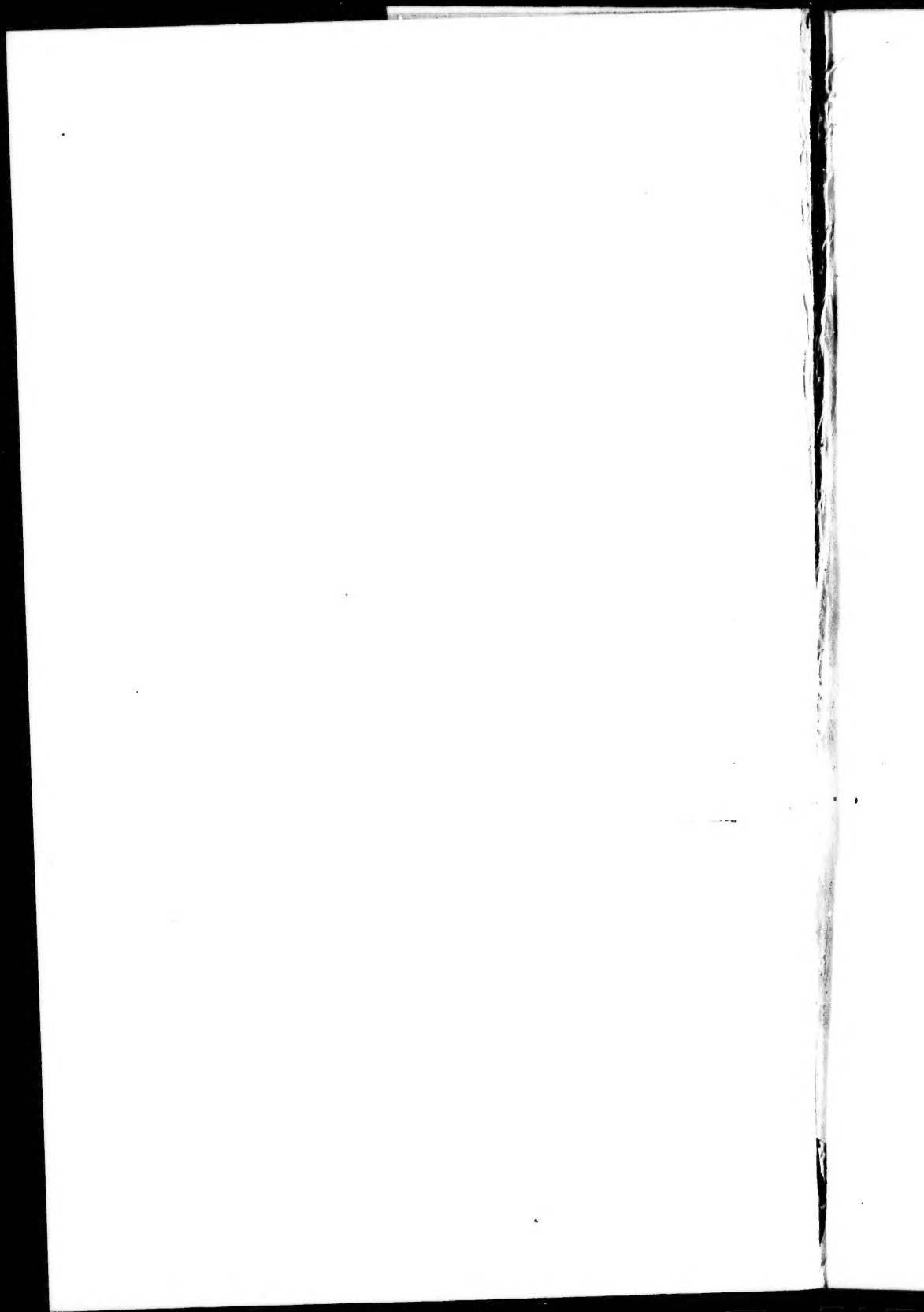




THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
THE OTTAWA
AND
ITS DISTRICTS.

QUEBEC:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM NEILSON, NO. 19, MOUNTAIN STREET.
1841.

th

se
m
ti
se

ne
M
de

an
th
po

an
to
sin
set
the



THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE OTTAWA AND ITS DISTRICTS.

Every Merchant in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal is deeply interested in the development of the resources of this important part of Canada.

THE times appearing more propitious than they have done for some years past, a number of individuals interested in the Ottawa, met at Bytown, on the 22nd June last, and entered into resolutions respecting the improvement of that central river, and the settlement of its Districts.

Application was, in consequence, made to the Governor General for his consent to a renewal of the proposals to the Colonial Minister for the formation of a Joint Stock Company in London, for those important purposes.

The application to His Excellency was favourably received, and has encouraged the idea of sending an Agent to England on the business, provided sufficient funds can be raised for the purpose.

The obstacles or interruptions in the navigation of the Ottawa, and the want of good roads through the country, operate as bars to settlement, and the experience of the years which have passed since that section of the country became at all an object for settlement, gives little reason to expect any effectual aid from the Provincial Parliament, in removing them.

An appeal to the Imperial Parliament is equally hopeless—in those days of economy and retrenchment, it is in vain to expect that the British Government will engage in works of any magnitude in Canada, excepting for military purposes. We must, therefore, resort to that great principle which has effected so much in the affairs of this world—the system of combination—in other words associations of individuals, bound together by the tie of a common pecuniary interest to accomplish a particular object. By what means have the many magnificent and immensely useful improvements in England, been accomplished, but by this principle of combination as exemplified in Joint Stock Companies. But here a question naturally arises, have we the means of forming these associations in the Colony? All our experience goes to answer this question in the negative. The attempts that have been made to form or to work these companies in the Colony have hitherto proved abortive, even tho' assisted, particularly in one case, by profuse grants from the Legislature. The circumstances of the Colony are against them. The capital which is brought into the 'country by individuals or produced by individual exertion, is absorbed by what must be done at every man's door, for his own comfort, nor can we expect that the mercantile bodies at Montreal and Quebec can assist to any great extent. It is not their object to invest their funds in undertakings of such slow returns as those produced by public works. In short, if the present generation is to see any great acceleration in the progress of the country on either side of the Ottawa, the aid of the British capitalist must be obtained, and it cannot be expected in any other way than that in which it is afforded to useful undertakings in the mother country, viz: on the security of a charter granted by the Imperial Parliament.

It was under these impressions that the expediency of sanctioning the formation of a Company in London for the improvement of the Ottawa, was urgently pressed on the attention of Government. It was strongly recommended by Lord Aylmer and Sir John Colborne, who were at that period our local Governors, and also by the Earl of Durham, when our Governor General. It was approved of by the Colonial Minister, and

nothing prevented the Company, which was then actually formed, from going into operation, but the unfavourable state of politics in the Canadas.

That such an association can now be again organized, we have every reason to expect, that it will be gladly welcomed by the inhabitants of those Districts, their earnest and numerous signed memorials to Government on the subject sufficiently testify, and that there will be no further delay on the part of Government, we would, considering the encouragement already held out, confidently anticipate.

Among the many benefits to be expected from the operations of a Company, the employment that would be thereby afforded to the emigrant, is not the least. It is not the mechanic merely who would benefit by them—the increased capital which their operations would diffuse through the Agricultural Districts would enable the farmer to employ additional labourers to his own advantage and to theirs. In this way the emigrant would serve his apprenticeship and be fitted to become a settler without being exposed to those hardships which must always attend a direct transition from his native country to the backwoods of Canada.

That such a Company would be advantageous to every landholder, within the sphere of its operations, there can be no doubt, for they would open roads and form other means of conveyance to those tracts of land which from the want of such communications are now unsaleable.

As it regards the Province generally, the Company would be the means of introducing and circulating a large capital which could not otherwise find its way into the country. Increased facilities would be afforded to the lumberers by opening new sources and new channels of conveyance for their supplies. In a mercantile point of view, improvements on the Ottawa must, as they proceed and increase the population in that direction, add to the trade of both Quebec and Montreal—a trade which must flow into these Cities, protected locally, from interference or interruption by any foreign rival, and it may be humbly submitted for the consideration of Government, that if a navigable communication were accomplished from Montreal to Lake Huron,

in the direction of the Ottawa, it may prove to be the most important military highway in the whole Province. But we need not dwell on the many advantages to be expected from the establishment of an association of this kind on the Ottawa—there are few who will dispute them.

The agitation of so many years has at length broken out and has been quenched, we hope for ever, in unsuccessful rebellion. The Legislative Union of the Provinces has been effected, and a determination to encourage emigration to this Colony has been declared by the Imperial Parliament; we trust, therefore, that the set time is now arrived for the adoption of this important measure, and for the realization of those hopes, which have been so long and so patiently entertained.

Extracts from a Report on the Internal Communications of Upper Canada, by Thomas Roy, Civil Engineer. — Laid before the Board of Trade, Montreal, 6th September, 1836 :—

“ We may remark on the line of communication in the direction of the Ottawa, that the country being imperfectly known, it is difficult to fix precisely upon the proper location for a Canal. The labours of Lieut. Walpole, of Mr. Shirreff, of Capts. Baddely and Carthen, have done much towards making us acquainted with that interesting portion of the country, but before deciding upon what would or would not be the most eligible line for a water communication, a far more minute investigation of the country from Lake Huron to the Rideau, than any of these gentlemen had it in their power to make, will be required. This they all agree in, that the elevations are suitable, and that there would be no want of water at the summit level.

“ This line is entirely within the Province. It passes through and near the best lumber districts. It is also well known that those sections of the country which lie to the northward of the

"Oak Ridges, possess much of the finest soil upon this continent.

"By cutting a Canal in this direction, we reach at once to the centre of the great chain of Lakes, and secure to Canada, beyond the possibility of rivals upon equal terms, the communication between the upper Lakes and the Ocean. It would effectually open up our own Lake countries, bring those lovely gems, the Manitoulin Isles (at the head of Lake Huron,) into a course of settlement, and introduce the northern shores of Lake Huron, hitherto so shamefully neglected, into that notice which they so well deserve. This line also passes through, and into what will prove to be the richest mineral district in this Province, or perhaps on this Continent. We shall not attempt to discuss its advantages in case of war. They are sufficiently obvious. If our neighbours take advantage of this Canal, (and they ought to be made welcome,) we bring their commerce into our own waters, and probably to our own markets. This route by the Ottawa to Lake Huron, viewed as a Canadian work, has decided advantages in almost every respect over the line by the St. Lawrence, and the whole energies of the country ought to be put forth to have it fully investigated and brought into notice. It ought truly to become a national work."

COMMUNICATIONS

WITH THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTING THE

FORMATION OF A COMPANY

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE OTTAWA,

AND FOR PROMOTING THE

SETTLEMENT OF THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Bytown and its vicinity, held in Kirk's Hotel, on Tuesday, the 22d June, 1841, called for the purpose of taking into consideration the steps which had been formerly taken for the information of a Company to improve the communication from Montreal to Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa River, and for promoting the settlement of the country; also with the view of submitting the subject to the notice of His Excellency the Governor General.

When Daniel Fisher, Esquire, of Bytown, being called to the Chair, and Dr. A. J. Christie appointed Secretary, Robert Shirreff, Esquire, of Fitzroy Harbor, opened the meeting by explaining the various proceedings which had taken place on the subject, when the following Resolutions were moved and carried unanimously :

Moved by Mr. R. SHIRREFF, and seconded by Mr. FRASER,

1st.—That arrangements have been made by a body of most respectable capitalists in England, to form a Company with the view of improving the communication between Montreal and

Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa, and of promoting the settlement of the adjoining country; that for these important purposes a proposal was made to the Government in a letter addressed to Mr. Secretary Rice, dated 24th June, 1834, (see Appendix, No. 1,) signed by twenty-seven Noblemen and Gentlemen, who, with others, we have every reason to believe, are still willing to engage in the undertaking.

Moved by Mr. McINTOSH, and seconded by Mr. SHIRREFF,

2d.—That the proposal mentioned in the foregoing resolution was referred by the Home Government to Lord Aylmer and Sir John Colborne, and highly approved of by their Excellencies; and although in consequence of the disturbed state of public affairs soon after that period, the measure was postponed by Government, and subsequently the disastrous events of 1837 and 1838, and the agitation of several political questions have caused a delay in bringing the matter again under the notice of Government; yet the subject has never ceased to be one of great interest to the people of both sides of the Ottawa.

Moved by Mr. LANG, and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE.

3d.—That we have already, in common with the other inhabitants of this part of the country, expressed our views of this measure in four numerous signed memorials to Government; and we would refer particularly to the Resolutions agreed to at a meeting held at new Edinburgh, (see Appendix No. 6,) to a memorial founded thereon, addressed to His Excellency the Earl of Durham, (see Appendix, No. 7,) to his Lordship's favorable reply, (see Appendix. No. 8,) and a subsequent letter on the subject from Mr. Buller, dated 24th October, 1838, (see Appendix, No. 9,) in which we are encouraged to persevere in the attainment of the important object in view.

Moved by Mr. W. LANG, and seconded by Mr. SCOTT,

4th.—That owing to the interruptions in the navigation of the Ottawa, the upper parts of that river are difficult of access, particularly as it respects newly arrived emigrants, the settlements already formed there being chiefly the arduous work of people inured to the woods, that in the prospect, therefore, of a

large accession to the population of the Colony, the improvement of the Ottawa is still more necessary.

Moved by Mr. BURKE, and seconded by Mr. PERKINS,

5th.—That the people of this place and neighbourhood are subjected to great inconvenience from the want of several public works, respecting which they have already made representations to Government, and which we doubt not would be among the first undertaken by the proposed Company.

Moved, by Mr. McTAGGART, and seconded by Mr. KENNEDY,

6th.—That a Company combining in their operations a simultaneous improvement of the communications of this part of the country and the settlement of the waste lands, and by which British capital would be brought to bear extensively on these objects, appears to us one of the most effectual means of accomplishing them. That besides the introduction and diffusion of capital, employment would be thereby afforded to emigrants on their arrival, and the opening up a commercial intercourse between the Ottawa and Lake Huron, be greatly facilitated.

Moved by Mr. CHITTY, and seconded by Mr. HUNTON,

7th.—That the memorials to the Provincial Government already mentioned, and other communications which have taken place on the subject, be printed in the form of a pamphlet for the use of the members of the Legislature, and others who take an interest in the improvement of this part of the country.

Moved, by Mr. STEVENSON, and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE.

8th.—That in order to further this great and important measure, Charles Shirreff and Robert Shirreff, Esquires, be nominated to proceed to Kingston, to submit the subject to His Excellency, the Governor General, together with the documents relating thereto.

Moved by Mr. JOYNT, and seconded by Mr. LEGGAT,

9th.—That a Committee be appointed for receiving subscriptions towards defraying the necessary expenses in promoting the object of this meeting, and to consider what further steps

should be taken in the matter, and that the Committee be composed of the following gentlemen, (five to be a quorum,) with power to add to their number: that Dr. A. J. Christie be Secretary and Convener, and James Stevenson, Esquire, Treasurer:—

Dr. Christie, Captain Baker, Messrs. Fisher, Fraser, O'Connor, Chitty, R. Wright, Stevenson, Blackburn, Egan, Day, Pinhey, D. M'Laren, J. Grierson, M'Intosh, George Buchanan, Patterson, Stewart, N. Sparks, M'Dougall, O'Neil, Radford, Kerr, Thos. Read, Chas. Shirreff, John Robertson, Robert Shirreff, M'Naughton, Perkins, Taylor, Mason, M'Millan, Lewis, Lyons, Tripp, Dickson, Barreille, Gregory, Aumond, Robert Lang, George Lang, Buchan, William Thomson and Charles Symmes.

Moved by Mr. INGLIS, and seconded by Mr. BLASDELL,

10th.—That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor General, and that His Excellency be respectfully requested to take the same into his favorable consideration.

Moved by Mr. SHIRREFF, and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE,

11th.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Daniel Fisher, Esquire, for his able conduct in the Chair.

(Signed,) DANIEL FISHER, Chairman.
A. J. CHRISTIE, Secretary.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

LONDON, 24TH JUNE, 1834.

SIR,

Two applications being already before His Majesty's Government on the subject of colonizing lands on the Ottawa, one addressed to the Right Honorable Lord Howick, on the 29th September, 1832, by Mr. Robert Shirreff, and the other to Mr. Secretary Stanley, in the autumn of last year, signed by Mr. Ravenshaw, Mr. Solly and Mr. Douglas, on behalf of themselves and others connected with the trade of London, and likewise a representation by Mr. Hamilton, on behalf of the North American Colonization Association of Ireland, dated the 29th of November, 1833, we now jointly beg leave to bring the subject again under the notice of the Colonial Department, and to request your early and favorable consideration of it, so as to enable the united Company, proposed to be formed, to take prompt measures properly to prepare in Upper Canada, for the reception of laborers from the United Kingdom, and in particular from Ireland.

The tract of country which we have in view to colonize, with the sanction of His Majesty's Government, is that which lies between the River Ottawa and Lake Huron, to the south of Lake Nipissing, and in the rear of the present settlements in the Newcastle and Midland Districts, but separated from them by an extensive barren space. The precise boundaries are more particularly pointed out in the paper and map which accompany this. Although the above tract appears to be extensive, yet it is ascertained that a great proportion of it is land unfit for cultivation, and much of the surface, water.

We likewise respectfully submit that as the plan of emigration which we have in view is an extensive one, embracing the population both of Ireland and Scotland, as well as England, a proportionably large tract of land in Canada will be necessary to carry the proposed objects into effect.

We shall again merely allude to the advantages likely to arise from the above-mentioned part of Canada being occupied by a body of settlers closely connected with the Mother Country, and attached to its institutions, and likewise to the tendency which these settlements must have to establish a direct communication between Montreal and Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa; and to increase, not only the internal trade of the Canadas, but likewise their commercial intercourse with those flourishing parts of the United States—the Michigan and North Western Territories.

Should Government be pleased favorably to entertain this proposal, the projected Company is intended to embrace the Irish Association already alluded to; the whole to be conducted under the control of a Board of Directors in London; consisting of a Governor, Deputy Governor, and ten Directors, with Branch Committees in Scotland and Ireland, to be formed of gentlemen of those countries respectively. It is intended to invite Sir Josiah C. Coghill, Bart., George A. Hamilton, Thomas Popham Luscombe, Robert Rowe, and Thomas Wilson, Esquires, as a temporary Committee for Ireland, to assist in carrying into effect the objects of this application.

We beg in conclusion to request that you will favor a Deputation from the undersigned with an interview, at which the plans and views may be submitted to you more in detail; and that you will have the goodness to address your reply to Mr. Ravenshaw, at the East India House.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed,) Fitzwilliam,
Clifden,
R. Derry,
Alexander Perceval,
Robert L. Dundas,
Henry F. Stephenson,
W. T. Copeland,
William Verner,
R. F. Ferguson,
A. Winstoir Barron,
John G. Ravenshaw,
Gosford,
G. H. Barnett,
George Hawthorne,

(Signed,) Thomas Edgar,
John Macdonald,
Henry Wm. Hobhouse,
J. Gordon Duff,
Robert Chaloner,
Neville Reid,
James Barnett,
Henry Douglas,
Robert Shirreff,
Charles McGarrel,
John Whyte,
Isaac Solly,
Charles J. Barnett.

To the Right Honorable
THOMAS SPRING RICE,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

II.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B., LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA, &c. &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

We the inhabitants of that section of the Canadas, bordering on the Ottawa, and in its neighbourhood, feeling the great disadvantage we labor under from want of necessary improvements in the navigation of that river, and sensible at the same time of the absolute want of means in this country, for such an important object; have learnt with the greatest satisfaction, that a Joint Stock Company is now organizing in Great Britain and Ireland, of sufficient magnitude, and with ample influence and funds to carry this essential measure to an extent which must ensure success to the undertaking, and produce great benefit to the colony.

Your Excellency must be aware that although the Ottawa is one of the finest and largest rivers on the Continent of America, and runs through the very heart of Canada; yet, from obvious causes, very little settlement has yet taken place upon it. It is situated at a distance from the seats of both the local Governments, and has not, hitherto, excited the same interest which the lands in their neighbourhood have done—consequently little or nothing has been attempted towards the removal of the obstructions in its navigation, nor in the improvement of roads, &c., in its Districts—and had it not been for the encouragement given to farming by the ready market created by the timber cutters, the Ottawa would have run through a wilderness to this day.

The Establishments of the Canada Company and of the British American Land Company, although no doubt, beneficial, are, however, operating as additional bars to the settlements of this part of the country. The upper parts of Canada beyond Toronto, must receive great advantage from the exertions of the Canada Company; and so must the Eastern Townships in Lower Canada from those of the British American Land Company—but the District of the country through which the Ottawa runs is so very distant and distinct from the operations of both these Companies, that so far from receiving benefit from them, they are effectually preventing the increase of its population—so that the formation of these Companies makes one for this part of the country more and more indispensable; while its distance from the situation of the other Companies, would prevent any inconvenient interference.

We humbly hope that the above observations will meet Your Excellency's favorable attention, and we would express our confidence, from our own conviction, of Your Excellency's uniform wish to promote the prosperity of every part of the colony; that, if the matter be referred to Your Excellency, you will give the formation of such a Company every encouragement and facility; so that it may enter as speedily as may be on operations, which may soon place Canada in a most commanding position, by putting her in the exclusive possession of the shortest outlet to the Ocean from those gigantic Lakes in the interior, which are surrounded by a vast extent of country capable, from its fertility, of supporting many millions of inhabitants, and where settlement is now making most rapid progress; particularly in the Michigan and North Western Territories; to which, if an opening, by the Ottawa to Lake Huron be accomplished, Montreal will be the nearest market by many hundred miles.

It may be remarked that the stupendous advantages which must be derived from a navigable communication with Lake Huron in the direction of the Ottawa, could never, by any possibility, be taken from Canada; for by no exertions in any other direction could a communication be made, so short or so safe. It would also be guarded completely by its natural situation, from all interference of our neighbors, for through the whole extent of the line, it would be at such a distance from the frontier, that it could never give access to any other, than our own markets and seaports of Montreal and Quebec.

We hope we are not taking too much liberty in humbly requesting that this address to Your Excellency may be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, &c.

Bytown, 19th September, 1834.

[Signed by 447 of the Inhabitants of the Districts bordering on the Ottawa.]

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Toronto, 5th November, 1834.

SIR,

The address relative to the improvement of the navigation of the Ottawa, forwarded with your letter of the 16th ultimo, has been laid before the Lieutenant Governor, and I am desired

by His Excellency, to request that you will acquaint the Inhabitants of the Bathurst and Ottawa Districts, by whom you have been deputed to transmit it, that he shall have great satisfaction in being able to transmit for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, any scheme, which has in view the important object of settling the fertile tracts between the Ottawa and Lake Huron, and rendering the lakes in that quarter available for a direct commercial intercourse with Lake Huron.

His Excellency will not fail to transmit your address to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WM. ROWAN.

TO CHARLES SHIRREFF, ESQ.

An address of the same tenor having been presented to Lord Aylmer, Governor General, His Excellency was pleased to return the following answer:

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,

Quebec, 5th November, 1834.

SIR,

With reference to the address which has been recently placed by you in the hands of the Governor in Chief, from a large and respectable body of the inhabitants of that section of the Canadas bordering on the Ottawa River, and in its neighbourhood, stating the great disadvantages they labor under from want of necessary improvements in the navigation of that river, and expressing their satisfaction at having learnt that a Joint Stock Company is now organizing in Great Britain and Ireland of sufficient magnitude, and with ample influence and funds to carry this essential measure to an extent which must ensure success, I have been directed by His Excellency to request that you will have the goodness to acquaint the parties by whom that address has been signed, that the improvement of the navigation of the River Ottawa is an object which has engaged much of his attention, and that they may confidently rely on his best endeavours in the promotion of it. His Excellency trusts that this general assurance on his part will be deemed a sufficient answer to their address, under existing circumstances. Should the subject be referred to him by His

Majesty's Government, (which from the tenor of the address it would appear there may be grounds to expect,) he will not fail to give it all the consideration which its great importance demands.

In the meanwhile His Excellency will lose no time in transmitting their address to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, in compliance with the desire therein expressed.

I have the honor to be, &c.

H. CRAIG, *Civil Secretary.*

TO CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esq.

No. III.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Memorial of the undersigned Merchants of Bytown in Upper Canada ;
and others connected with the Trade of the Ottawa,

Respectfully sheweth :

That your Memorialists being at present in this country, have learnt with concern, that the troubles existing in Lower Canada have induced His Majesty's Government to withhold at present their sanction to the formation of a Company in London, for improving the navigation of the Ottawa, and promoting the settlement of the waste land near it.

That your Memorialists would humbly express their great regret—that a measure so earnestly desired by the whole population of that important part of Canada, should thus be retarded by the agitation in another Province, of questions in which they are not in the smallest degree interested.

That the agricultural settlers and other inhabitants, near the Ottawa, are at present labouring under the greatest inconvenience from the formidable impediments to the navigation of that river, and the want of good roads, which the operations of the proposed Company would tend greatly to remedy.

That the persons engaged in the lumber trade, so extensively carried on near the Ottawa, have at present to suffer great delay and loss of property, in descending the river with their rafts, and that the obstruction of the different rapids, by which that delay and loss is occasioned, might in a great measure be removed by a Company having sufficient capital at their disposal.

That your Memorialists have not the smallest reason to suppose that a Company of such a nature, as the one projected, could be the occasion of the least discontent to any party whatever in Canada.

That other parts of British America are receiving extensive benefit from Joint Stock Companies formed in the Mother Country, and that from the remoteness of the Ottawa, from the several situations where these Companies are established, the inhabitants of that part of the country derive no advantage from them. On the contrary the efforts made by these associations to direct Emigrants to their own lands and neighbourhood, must prevent many persons settling on the Ottawa, who might otherwise do so.

That it has been publicly known in Canada for some time past, that the establishment of a Company in London for the purposes above mentioned has been contemplated, and that there has not been the slightest opposition to it from any party.

That the people of the Ottawa presented addresses to the Governors of Lower and Upper Canada, strongly praying their Excellencies to recommend the formation of the proposed London Company, to His Majesty's Government. And their Excellencies having been pleased to return the most favorable answers to these Addresses, the disappointment occasioned to the Ottawa Districts will be very great, should the Company not go into operation this summer; especially on the reason given for the delay, has not arisen amongst themselves, but in another remote part of Canada.

Your Memorialists do not think it necessary to go at length, into the importance of the objects which would be embraced by an Ottawa Company, but they may be permitted to observe, that the settlement of the waste lands near that river is now almost at a stand, for want of the aid of such an association. That the operations of the Company would very much increase the commerce of Montreal and Quebec, and that the ultimate effect of these operations in opening a communication with Lake Huron, in the direction of the Ottawa, would add greatly

to the means of defending the Canadas in the event of a war with the United States, and have a most beneficial effect on the prosperity of these Provinces.

Respectfully requesting your Lordship's favorable consideration of the above,

Your Memorialists have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble servants,

(Signed,)

Pollock, Gilmour & Co., Merchants, Montreal, Quebec and Glasgow.	William M'Intosh, Merchants, Montreal and Ottawa River.
Hector Russell, Merchants, Glasgow and Montreal.	James Scott & Co. " " and Glasgow.
William Cormack, Merchants, Quebec, Montreal and Toronto.	William Smith & Co. " "
A. Laurie, Merchants, Quebec, Montreal and Toronto.	Gordon, Shedden & Co. " "
C. J. Dunlop, Partner of the House of Billingham & Dunlop, Montreal.	David M'Kinlay, " "
Wm. Stewart, Merchant, Bytown, U. C.	James Murison, " Glasgow and Montreal.
John Fowler, " Montreal.	James Pinkerton, senr. " " and Montreal.
Alexander Thomson, Merchant, Montreal.	Robert Roger & Co. " " and Quebec.
John Greenshields, jr. " "	Gillespie, Stuart & Co. " Montreal.
James Miller, " "	John Reid, & Co. " " and
Robert Weir, jr. " "	Upper Canada.

2nd April, 1835.

No. IV.

MEMORIAL TO EARL GOSFORD.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL OF GOSFORD, GOVERNOR IN CHIEF, AND HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER TO CANADA, &c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Districts of Lower and Upper Canada, situated on and near the Ottawa, and others connected with and interested in the trade of that river,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That a Company with ample means and influence has been formed in London, for improving the navigation of the River Ottawa, and promoting the settlement of that important part of the country, with a view also of ultimately opening a communication in that direction, to Lake Huron.

That addresses by a numerous and respectable body of the Inhabitants of the Districts near the Ottawa, have been already presented to their Excellencies the Governors of the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, earnestly requesting their recommendation to the Home Government, to sanction the said Company, and that both their Excellencies have expressed themselves favorable to the measure, and have transmitted these addresses to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That although it has been publicly known that such a Company was forming, and expected to go into immediate operation, yet no opposition nor objection has been made to it. But on the contrary the immense importance of the undertaking has been universally acknowledged, and it has been hailed as one of the greatest improvements that could be contemplated in Canada.

That under these circumstances your Memorialists have heard with deep regret, that His Majesty's Government have hesitated to allow the Company to commence its operations immediately, and they would humbly beg leave to state, that seeing nothing is asked of His Majesty's Government, but a grant of waste lands, at a value to be paid in improving the navigation of the River Ottawa, and as until that is done, these lands must remain useless and inaccessible, they would earnestly hope that the political discussions in another and distant part of the Province, will not induce His Majesty's Government to reject the means now offered to accomplish a measure so essential towards the settlement of this inland and central section of the country.

That much pains have been taken in England and Ireland to form this association and which is now in a state sufficiently organized for immediate operation. But as many of its members are engaged in pursuits more directly interesting to themselves, there is great danger if further delays take place, that the whole scheme may be broken up, and thus His Majesty's Government may lose an opportunity which may never occur again, of accomplishing without any burden on the public purse, a work not only of great magnitude, but of infinite consequence to the British Mercantile interests, for it will give unrivalled control over a great portion of the central trade of this continent, by bringing Montreal nearer to the great North Western Lakes by many hundred miles, than any sea-port in the United States.

Other great advantages may also be stated that will arise from the undertaking, such as opening an immediate field for settlement, through the heart of the country, by which it will be strengthened and thrown into a more substantial shape, the chief population being hitherto along the frontier.

A military highway would likewise be formed by this communication, in the direction of the Ottawa, to the interior of the continent, giving also ready and safe navigable access to the arsenal of Penetanguishine. The facilities which this Company would give to the lumber trade, by the proposed improvements, should also be noticed. It is a trade of the greatest consequence to this country, timber being the chief export, and it is of no less importance to Great Britain, as a means of keeping her from being dependant on the Baltic for that necessary article. The chief seat of this trade is the Ottawa, and the impediments in the navigation at the falls and rapids, have occasioned hitherto much loss both of lives and property. And it may be stated that serious disturbances have taken place among the numerous labourers in the higher parts of the river, which cannot be easily quelled, in consequence of their distance from the settlements and the civil power, all which inconveniences would very soon be removed by the operation of this Company, which is ready to pour into the heart of the country, a steady population and to improve it for their accommodation.

For these important reasons your Memorialists earnestly hope that your Excellency will see it good to recommend to His Majesty's Government, not to delay any longer their sanction to a measure which must tend so much to the prosperity and tranquillity of this country, and they would humbly request that this Memorial, as on former occasions, may be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Your Memorialists have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servants.

Signed by 1246 land-holders and others, in the neighbourhood of the Ottawa.

October, 1835.

No. 5.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES SHIRREFF, ESQ., WITH STEPHEN WALCOTT, AND T. F. ELLIOT, ESQUIRES.

QUEBEC, 22ND OCTOBER, 1835.

SIR,

Circumstances having led His Majesty's Government to delay making final arrangements with the Company which has been formed in London for improving the navigation of the Ottawa, the inhabitants of the Districts bordering upon that River have authorized me to present to the Governor-in-Chief, the Memorial which accompanies this letter. I beg leave, therefore, to trouble you with it, and I would earnestly and humbly solicit His Excellency's favorable attention to it.

There are to the Memorial twelve hundred and forty-six signatures, not only of the most respectable inhabitants of those Districts, but including also a considerable number of names of the first respectability in Montreal and Quebec, for the objects contemplated are not merely of deep interest to those who reside near the Ottawa, but are considered of great importance to the country at large.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed,) C. SHIRREFF.

STEPHEN WALCOTT, Esquire,
Secretary, &c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

ni
M
im
wi
re
an
tar

ass
ear
hal
op
set

of
ret
ter
sion
the
sub
loss
bein
per
ther

T. F.

QUEBEC, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1835.

ALBION HOTEL.

SIR,

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief having signified his intention of submitting to the Royal Commissioners the Memorial I have had the honor of presenting, respecting the improvements in the navigation of the Ottawa, and as the season will soon oblige me to return home, I must beg leave humbly to request an early opportunity of stating to the Board, more fully and particularly than may appear in the Memorial, the important benefits which must result from the undertaking.

It may be noticed that this is not a petition merely for persons associated for the purpose of a land speculation, but it is an earnest application from a large and respectable body of the inhabitants of a very extensive District, who look forward to the operations of this Company as the great means of promoting its settlement and prosperity.

As the matter was referred to the local Governors and approved of by them, we do not know any circumstance which can have retarded the arrangements, but a wish on the part of the Minister for Colonial affairs to receive a Report from the Commissioners before closing finally with the Company, I would humbly, therefore, venture to submit, that an early consideration of the subject may be of essential consequence, not only to prevent the loss of another season, but to save the scheme altogether from being broken up, which, if it should unfortunately happen, I am persuaded, would become a matter of regret to the Commissioners themselves, when made fully aware of its importance.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed,) C. SHIRREFF.

T. F. ELLIOT, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

QUEBEC, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1835.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 4th instant, requesting an interview on the proposal to form an Association for holding lands on the Ottawa, and for improving the navigation of that River, I am directed by the Commissioners to acquaint you that they have perused the petition which you have borne to Quebec, and have adverted to the former communications on the same subject, of which copies are deposited in the Records of this Government, but that the duty of the Commissioners being primarily to enquire into grievances which have been the subject of public complaint, they do not feel themselves at liberty to turn their attention from the matters with which they are at present occupied to a consideration of the plan for a Company which you have submitted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

THOS. FREDK. ELLIOT.

C. SHIRREFF, Esquire,
Albion Hotel.

QUEBEC, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1835.

SIR,

It is by no means my intention in acknowledging the receipt of your favor, of the 14th instant, to press any further at present on the Commissioners, the consideration of the plan which has been submitted for a Company to improve the navigation of the Ottawa. I can only hope, for the reasons given in the Memorial, that the Commissioners will be able, at an early day, to take up the subject.

I am desirous, however, to endeavour before leaving Quebec, to meet the objection which has been hinted, of the Ministry entertaining fears that another Company might interfere too much with those already formed.

It was one of the first steps in this business to obtain and transmit home the sense upon it, of almost the whole of the principal Merchants in Montreal, whose experience and local knowledge of the country led them to state, as their opinion, that three points or situations for Land Companies could not be better chosen, and so far from dreading the interference of a Company on the Ottawa, many of those who signed the paper which was then transmitted, were stockholders in the other Companies.

It is surely obvious that such Companies, planted judiciously throughout the country, must be the most expeditious means of increasing both capital and population. But if the plan be confined to the two Companies already formed, it would be a hurtful monopoly. It would in a manner shut up every other corner of the country, for the inducements which such Associations can hold out, will always lead the bulk of the emigration their way. I humbly think, therefore, that as the system has been commenced it ought in justice to other parts of the country be carried on, and we have the experience of our neighbours to prove it is a good one for a new country. Those Companies will, for their own interest, lose no time in opening roads and providing other facilities for their settlers, and thus the general improvement and settlement of the country would be accelerated much more than if the lands remained in the hands of Government.—We have only to look at the present operations of the British American Land Company to prove this fact.

I beg leave to close these observations by an extract from the address presented in September, 1834, to the Governor in Chief, and also to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada :—

“ The Establishments of the Canada Company and of the British American Land Company, although no doubt, beneficial, are, however, operating as additional bars to the settlement of this part of the country. The upper parts of Canada, beyond Toronto, must receive great advantage from the exertions of the Canada Company ; and so must the Eastern Townships in Lower Canada from those of the British American Land Company—but the district of the country through which the Ottawa runs is so very distant and distinct from the operations of both these Companies, that so far from receiving benefit from them, they are effectually preventing the increase of its population—so that the formation of these Companies makes one for this part of the country more and more indispensable ; while its distance from

the situation of the other Companies, would prevent any inconvenient interference."

The question, in short, may be reduced to this simple statement, must that important section of the country containing one of the finest and largest rivers in North America, remain a wilderness, and the people who have settled in it, continue to labor under every disadvantage, or will Government sanction the application of the means which are now fully provided for removing the obstructions to the increase of its population, and for accelerating and ultimately accomplishing a communication, which a single glance at the map of this continent will shew, must, before many years elapse pour into Canada an increase of trade and prosperity far beyond all present calculation.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed,) C. SHIRREFF.

THOMAS FREDK. ELLIOT, Esq.
Secretary to the Royal Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

No. 6.

PUBLIC MEETING AT NEW EDINBURGH.

At a Meeting held at New Edinburgh, for the purpose of considering the best means of furthering the laudable views of the Government, in the enquiry to be made by CHARLES BULLER, Esquire, Chief Commissioner for Crown Lands and Emigration.

THOMAS MCKAY, Esq., M. P. P., was called to the Chair, and ROBERT LANG, Esq., appointed Secretary.

Mr. McKay explained the nature of the Meeting, as follows: A few years ago a proposal was made by influential noblemen, capitalists, and merchants in England, for forming themselves

into a Company to open up a communication from Lake Huron to the Sea, by the Ottawa River, and upon such terms as were likely to be advantageous to this section of the country. The offers made by the proposed Company to the Colonial Secretary were so much akin to the preamble of the Chief Commissioner's warrant, that it has been thought advisable to draw his attention to the proceedings of the year 1835, as regards the proposal.

The inhabitants bordering upon the Ottawa and its neighbourhood, sent a petition to Lord Aylmer, and one to Sir John Colborne, signed by 447 names, craving that their Excellencies would investigate into the merits of the proposal made by the London Company, and if they found it to be of such immense advantage to the country as described, that their Excellencies would recommend it to the favorable consideration of the Home Government. These petitions were, it seems, very favorably received, as appears from the replies from their Excellencies:—

Lord Aylmer in acknowledging the petition, says—"He requests that the parties who signed the petition be informed that the improvement of the River Ottawa is an object which has engaged much of his attention, and that they may confidently rely on his best endeavours in the promotion of it; and should the subject be referred to him by His Majesty's Government, that he will not fail to give it all the consideration its importance demands."

Sir John Colborne says, in acknowledging the petition—"That he will have great satisfaction in being enabled to submit, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, any scheme which has in view the important object of settling the fertile tracts between the Ottawa and Lake Huron and rendering the Lakes in that quarter available for a direct intercourse with Lake Huron."

The Hon. T. Spring Rice and Lord Glenelg viewed the matter in a very favorable point of view. Both said it was a "*question only of time*," giving the parties to understand that the formation of a Company in London, *at that time*, would be strongly opposed by the party in Canada who were averse to the introduction of British capital and British population. The time seems now come for stirring up the question, and I leave it to the Meeting to propose such resolutions as they may deem proper.

Proposed by Mr. McTaggart, seconded by Mr. J. Stevenson, Junior,

Resolved—That the Meeting respectfully call upon their Member, Thomas McKay, Esquire, to procure for them a copy of the Report of the Surveyors who were appointed by the Government to Survey and Report upon the practicability of opening up a navigation from Lake Huron to Montreal by the River Ottawa.

Proposed by James Stevenson, and seconded by Mr. William Lang,

Resolved—That the opening up of the trade of the Great Western Lakes and States to Montreal, by the short route of the Ottawa, is an event to be hailed as a precursor to the future prosperity of the Colony in general. That the terms upon which the London Company came forward in 1834, are fraught with many valuable advantages to the Colony by the circulation of such a vast sum of money in the Province, and by peopling the Waste Lands.

Mr. Stevenson laid before the Meeting a map shewing that the distance from *Lake Huron to Montreal* by Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa in the proposed route, is not much above 450 miles, whereas by the present route from *Lake Huron to Montreal* by Lake Erie and Ontario, it is above 840 miles.—Mr. Stevenson also laid before the Meeting a very able paper on the subject, written by Charles Shirreff, Esquire, of Fitzroy Harbor, stating in a clear manner the many advantages to be derived by opening up the trade of the Western Lakes and States to Montreal. Mr. S. read the names of the gentlemen, who, in 1835, were ready to advance the capital, provided the Government would incorporate them as a Company, and these names convince the meeting that had Government granted the request, the Ottawa ere this, would have presented a heart-cheering appearance. The list of names were as follows:—

(Signed,) Earl Fitzwilliam,
Viscount Clifden,
Bishop of Derry,
Alexander Percival, M. P.
Robert L. Dundas, Lord
of the Admiralty,
Henry F. Stephenson,
Alderman W. T. Copeland,
M. P.
William Verner, M. P.
R. A. Ferguson, M. P.
A. Wenston Barron, M. P.
John G. Ravenshaw, Esq.,
a Director of the East
India Company,
Earl Gosford,

(Signed,) G. H. Barnett, Esq.
George Hawthorne, Esq.
Thomas Edgar, Esq.
John Macdonald, Adjutant
General,
Henry W. Hobhouse, Esq.
J. Gordon Duff, Esq.
Robert Chaloner, Esq.
Neville Reid, Esq.
James Barnett, Esq.
Henry Douglas, Esq.
Robert Shirreff, Esq.
Charles McGarrel, Esq.
John Whyte, Esq.
Isaac Solly, Esq.
Charles J. Barnett, Esq.

Mr. S. stated the advantages in a political point of view that Government would gain by the formation of such a Company, in securing a strong interior population, away from the contamination of Republican principles, and called upon all who had the interest of the colony at heart, to join in petitioning His Excellency the Governor General to assist in forwarding the views of the proposed Company, provided the terms they offered were in accordance with the interest of the Colony.

Proposed by Archibald McDONELL, Esq., J. P., seconded by Mr. Moffatt,

Resolved—That this Meeting use every exertion to convince the Imperial Parliament, that the best interests of the Colony will be studied by giving encouragement to capitalists to settle amongst them, and particularly to encourage the Company who recently wished to be incorporated for the purpose of opening up the navigation from Lake Huron to the sea port of Montreal by the River Ottawa.

Proposed by Robert Lang, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. Fraser,

Resolved—That the view which our late Lieutenant Governor, Sir F. Bond Head, took of the resources of that noble River, the Ottawa, in his opening Speech to Parliament, is in accordance with the opinion of every one who has taken the trouble to consult the local advantages offered to commerce, by improving the navigation of the Ottawa.

Proposed by B. Billings, Esq., seconded by Mr. Scott,

Resolved—That our respected member, Thomas McKay, Esq., with the following gentlemen, form a deputation to wait upon His Excellency, and to hand him a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, with the map and comparative remarks, on the projected communication with Lake Huron :—R. Lang, Esq., J. P., A. McDonell, Esq., J. P., and J. Stevenson, Esq.

Proposed by William Lang, Esq., seconded by Mr. Durie,

Resolved—That a copy of these Resolutions be made out and forwarded to Charles Buller, Esq., Commissioner of Inquiry, of Crown Lands and Emigration, with a view of drawing his attention to the importance of furthering the views of the proposed Company, and that Bradish Billings, Esq., J. P., be added to the deputation to wait on His Excellency.

(Signed,) THOMAS MCKAY, Chairman.
ROBERT LANG, Secretary.

New Edinburgh, 16th July, 1838.

No. 7.

MEMORIAL TO LORD DURHAM.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE OTTAWA, AND WATER COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN THAT RIVER AND LAKE HURON.

On Thursday, the 30th ultimo, a Deputation from a Meeting recently held at New Edinburgh, on the Ottawa, waited on His Excellency the Governor General, and presented the following Address :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

The Improvement of the Navigation of the River Ottawa, and opening a communication by that river to Lake Huron, having been long considered measures of vital importance in a Commercial, Agricultural, and political point of view, not only to Canada, but to the Mother Country, repeated applications on the subject have been made to the Governors of the Colony ; and also for the attainment of these objects an attempt was made to form a Company in London, which was so far in train in the year 1835, (composed of men of the first respectability and influence,) as to require only the sanction of Government to commence its operations ; and although the ministry have uniformly expressed their approbation of the measure, and their sense of its importance, yet political changes and the state of political affairs in this country, have hitherto thrown obstacles in its way.

Your Memorialists are encouraged to address your Lordship on the subject, from the impression, that it is the wish of your Lordship to apply the power with which your Lordship is invested, in the most beneficial way for the Colony, and being persuaded that there is not, perhaps, another object to which your Lordship's attention can be directed, that would have a more practical effect, in promoting emigration, and the settlement of a most important section of the country. These considerations have led to the meeting from whence the resolutions accompanying this Address have emanated.

Your Lordship's Memorialists are confident (notwithstanding the delay which has taken place,) that, if your Lordship should, after the investigation you may consider necessary, recommend

the measure to Government, a Company can still be formed of sufficient means and influence, to carry through the undertaking.

Instead of troubling your Lordship with a recapitulation of the reasons formerly urged in favor of the measures—if it be not taking too much liberty, your Memorialists beg leave to refer to the Address presented to their Excellencies Lord Aylmer, and Sir John Colborne, a copy of which accompanies this. Their favorable replies are embodied in the resolutions of the meeting.

An Address to the same effect was presented to the Earl of Gosford, signed by about twelve hundred individuals.

All which is humbly submitted to your Excellency's favorable consideration.

(Signed,) by T. McKAY, M. P. P., and 1,224 others.

No. 8.

REPLY.

To this Address His Excellency was pleased to return the following answer:—

I have attentively examined the projected measure for improving the navigation of the River Ottawa, and opening a communication by the River to Lake Huron, which you wish that I should recommend to the Imperial Government.

Convinced of the importance of the objects contemplated by you, and indeed deeply impressed with the necessity, with a view to the ultimate success of my mission, of encouraging the emigration of people from Britain to this part of Her Majesty's dominions, and the investment of British capital in Colonial improvements, so that the vast and naturally fertile territory intersected by the St. Lawrence and its tributaries, may no longer present a lamentable contrast with adjoining states, as respects production, advancement and prosperity; I should have at once complied with your wish, if it had not appeared to me, on full

reflection, that your objects may be more surely and satisfactorily attained by some little delay in the pursuit of them.

You are aware that I have issued Commissions of Inquiry in all the Colonies comprised under my general government, for the purpose of framing a general measure with respect to the disposal of Crown Lands; a measure of which the whole aim, scope, and tenor will be the promotion of British emigration, and the improvement of these colonies by attracting to them a portion of the superabundant capital of Britain. From the enquiries already made, I am satisfied that such a policy may be adopted with great benefit to the mother country and infinite advantage to these colonies. I intend that the plan founded on that policy, which I contemplate recommending, should be matured in time to form part of the political arrangements for the future government of these colonies, which it is my duty to suggest to the Imperial Legislature. With this intention, I am unwilling to entertain at present any particular scheme involving a disposal of Crown Lands. But as I also propose affording to Her Majesty's subjects in these colonies an opportunity of becoming fully acquainted with the general measures for the future disposal of Crown Lands, which I may determine on recommending; as I believe that your project may, without any alteration of its leading principles, be so modified in the details as to agree with that general measure, whereby you would become entitled to my strenuous support, and the most favorable consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and, finally, since I shall be happy, as soon as possible after you shall have become acquainted with the general measure contemplated by me, to concert with you the best means of so recommending your project, it appears to me desirable that all further communication on the subject should be postponed until after the General Commission of Crown Lands and Emigration shall have made their Report. In proposing this delay, I have no other aim, as respects your great scheme, than its earliest and most complete success.

No. 9.

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,
OCTOBER 24TH, 1838. }

SIR,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General, to express his regret that in consequence of his sudden departure from this country for England, it will be impossible that he should concert with the gentlemen interested in the proposed water communication between Lake Huron and the Ottawa, any measure for carrying that object into effect. The subject, however, is of so great importance to the Commercial and Agricultural interests of the two Canadas, that His Excellency sincerely hopes it will not be allowed to drop, and should the parties most deeply interested in the matter, see fit to employ an agent in England to urge their wishes upon the notice of Her Majesty's Government, they may rely upon His Excellency's best exertions in promoting their views.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

(Signed,) CHARLES BULLER.

CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.